

## The Sun

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## NO BACKWARD STEP!

From President Roosevelt's annual message of 1908. Whenever either corporation, labor union or individual disregards the law or acts in a spirit of arbitrary and tyrannical interference with the rights of others, whether corporations or individuals, then where the Federal Government has jurisdiction it will see to it that the misconduct is stopped, paying not the slightest heed to the position or power of the corporation, the union or the individual, but only to one vital fact—that is, the question whether or not the conduct of the individual or aggregate of individuals is in accordance with the law of the land.

Every man must be guaranteed his liberty and his right to do as he likes with his property or his labor, so long as he does not infringe the rights of others. No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right, not asked as a favor.

We have cause as a nation to be thankful for the steps that have been so successfully taken to put these principles into effect. The progress has been by evolution, not by revolution. Nothing radical has been done; the action has been both moderate and resolute. Therefore the work will stand. There shall be no backward step.

## News Which Should Delight the Author of the Forcible Proclamation.

From the Evening Post of Saturday. Practically all the labor unions of New Orleans were yesterday indicted by the Federal Grand Jury for violations of the Sherman anti-trust law. This was doubtless in pursuance of the recent decision of the Supreme Court holding the boycott to be illegal. Such promptness and vigor in enforcing the law of the land must be highly satisfying to the President. He has declared that "whenever either corporation or labor union defies the law the Administration will see to it," and will pay not the slightest heed to the position or power of the corporation or the union." Hence we may now expect from Mr. Roosevelt one of his vigorous utterances cheering on the Federal prosecutors at New Orleans. And that should be only a preliminary to Presidential action against Gompers and the American Federation of Labor for defiantly maintaining a boycott of the Buck's Store Company, although enjoined not to do by a Judge in the District of Columbia. With ample means placed by Congress at the disposal of the Attorney-General in order to prosecute violators of the Sherman act, we look for a sharp direction to Mr. Bonaparte from the President to let no guilty labor union escape. Having despised the millions of the conspirators and the malefactors, it will be a peculiar delight to Mr. Roosevelt to despise the votes of the unions.

## Will Western Civilization Decay?

The other day at Newham College in the University of Cambridge ex-Premier BALFOUR, who is as conspicuously a philosopher as he is a politician, chose the subject of the Henry Sidgwick memorial lecture which he delivered. He recalled the indubitable fact that in the past civilizations have worn out and great communities have vanished, and he proceeded to inquire whether the civilization exemplified in the Anglo-Saxon peoples is doomed to suffer the same fate.

There is this to be said, that between the Babylonian, the Pharaonic, the Hellenic and the Roman civilizations on the one hand and that civilization with which we are to-day familiar in western Europe and America on the other there is a momentous difference, namely, that as the former disappeared in turn they were succeeded by better organized, more virile and more elevated types of human society; whereas if the energy of Teutonic development should become exhausted, there remains no external source from which it could be renewed. Where, asks Mr. BALFOUR, are the untold races competent to construct out of the ruined fragments of our Western societies a new and better habitation for the spirit of man? They do not exist, and if the most civilized part of the world were again to be buried under a barbarian flood this flood would not be like that which fertilized, though it first destroyed, the western provinces of Rome, but like that which in western Asia submerged forever the last traces of Hellenic culture.

Does it follow, however, that because Roman civilization perished or nearly perished in western Europe, our own civilization must eventually undergo a similar process of disintegration? Mr. BALFOUR does not pretend that a conclusive answer can be given to this question until sociology shall have risen above the empirical and merely inter-

rogative point of view and shall have arrived at incontrovertible conclusions touching the life history of different social types. In the absence of such a sociology, however, he is inclined to regard arrested development and decadence as no less normal in human communities than is progress, though the point at which the energy of advance is paralyzed varies in different races and civilizations. Nevertheless, he can see as yet no symptoms either of pause or of regression in the onward movement which for more than a thousand years has been characteristic of the Western peoples.

The only reason suggested by Mr. BALFOUR why in our case we may expect the arrest of social development to be very long postponed is the appearance among us during the last hundred years of a new social force, the modern alliance between pure science and industry. He has in view the effect of this alliance on the improvement of the material conditions under which human societies live. Two other grounds have been indicated by other students of the subject for the hope that Western civilization may escape the decadence and dissolution experienced by the Roman empire. An age of mechanical invention renders the task of self-defense against more vigorous but uncivilized races comparatively easy for civilized yet degenerate communities. Moreover, we have a guarantee against social collapse which Roman civilization did not possess. In the Roman world there was an enormous and insuperable gulf between the cultivated class and the industrial classes, which were made up almost exclusively of slaves. In western Europe and America, on the other hand, owing to the fluidity of our social system, there is a perpetual stream of fresh, unexhausted intelligence renewing the intellectual and moral life of the cultivated section of the nation. It is because in France, Great Britain and especially the United States society is organized on a democratic basis that there is some foundation for an optimistic view of our ability to resist decay.

## Congress Had Better Beware!

We do not think the House ought to cut down the naval estimates without further information and due consideration. The Secretary of the Navy asked for four battleships and some seventy millions of expenditure. We think the Secretary asked for four battleships only because he was afraid to ask for sixteen, and because if he asked for eight it would alarm the country.

The Secretary of the Navy knows what he is about and it is the duty of Congress to inform itself of the real facts in the case. The Administration stated on the occasion of the last requisition that the country had all the navy that it required and that no further notable increase would be asked for. What is the actual reason of the demand now made? The plea of a practice cruise to the Pacific on the part of the whole navy is now admitted to be a lie; it cannot therefore be uttered as a plea for a startling increase in our naval strength.

With the House's motives of economy we are in hearty accord, but we warn the whole Congress that economy may be entirely and even criminally out of place. Cut down the estimates to the bare bones of subsistence, but do it only with a full knowledge of the facts and not in flabby hostility to an intimation from an incompetent and dangerous Administration.

We beg leave to call the attention of the Congress to the fact that the provision in the Constitution that the power to declare war reposes solely in the Congress is at this writing not worth the paper on which it is written.

## Call for the facts!

The Present Legal Status of the Thaw Case.

There appears to be a very considerable misapprehension on the part of intelligent persons in the community as to the conditions under which HARRY K. THAW is detained in the Matteawan State Hospital and the necessary legal steps to bring about his release, if indeed he is ever let out of the insane asylum at all.

Section 454 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides that when the defense to an indictment is the insanity of the defendant, the jury must be instructed if they acquit on that ground to state the fact with their verdict. This was done in the Thaw case. The same section further provides that upon the rendition of a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity, if the Court deems the discharge of the defendant to be "dangerous to the public peace or safety," it must order him to be committed to the State lunatic asylum until he becomes sane.

Acting under the latter provision of law, the court before which THAW was tried—that is to say, the Supreme Court in this county, at a criminal term thereof, held by Supreme Court Justice VICTOR J. DOWLING—committed the defendant to the Matteawan State Hospital, there to remain "until he becomes sane"; because in the opinion of the presiding Judge the evidence which led to the verdict of acquittal showed not only that THAW was of unsound mind, but that his mental derangement was and is of such a character as to render him liable to future homicidal outbreaks.

The defendant having thus been committed to an insane asylum by a judicial order which is the outcome of a verdict in the form prescribed by the statute, where the defense of insanity is accepted by the jury, the question is, How long can he be kept under restraint? The terms of the order contemplate that the period of detention shall coincide with the duration of his insanity. A person who is sent to Matteawan under such circumstances is restrained, not as a wrongdoer, for he has been acquitted of intentional wrongdoing, but is deprived of his liberty simply because it is deemed dangerous to his fellow men to allow him

to go at large. When this danger comes to an end in consequence of the return of his reason, then the justification for his further detention no longer exists in the eye of the law.

The appropriate proceeding to procure the release of a patient at Matteawan held there under such a commitment as that in the Thaw case is pointed out in Section 99 of the Insanity Law, a codification of the General Statutes of this State relating to the care, treatment and custody of the insane, enacted by the Legislature in 1896. There are three classes of patients in the Matteawan State Hospital: First, insane convicts; second, persons who are committed to, insane after indictment but before trial, in cases which it has become impossible to proceed with the prosecution in consequence of the insanity of the defendant; and third, persons acquitted on the ground of insanity, like THAW. As to the latter class of patients the statute contains this provision: "Any inmate not a convict held upon an order of a court or Judge in a criminal proceeding may be discharged therefrom upon the superintendent's certificate of recovery, made to and approved by such court or Judge."

The medical superintendent for the Matteawan State Hospital is required by law to be "a well educated physician of at least five years actual experience in a hospital for the care and treatment of the insane." He is appointed by the Superintendent of State Prisons. The present incumbent of this office is R. B. LAMB, M. D. When this gentleman shall make a certificate of recovery pursuant to the insanity law declaring that HARRY K. THAW has become sane, and this certificate shall have been transmitted to the part of the Supreme Court in this county designated by the Appellate Division for the trial of criminal cases, and that court shall have approved it, then THAW will be entitled to be discharged. The procedure is extremely simple. It very properly contemplates both medical and judicial action as a condition precedent to permitting a man to go at large who has already slain a fellow man while in such a condition of madness that a jury has declared he was not responsible for his act. The superintendent of the hospital and the Court must agree that it is safe to set the defendant at liberty before he can be released. There is no probability, and indeed scarcely any possibility, that a certificate of recovery would be made in such a case as this except as a result of the most painstaking investigation, in which doubtless the superintendent would be aided by the observation and opinion of other competent experts. The suggestions in the lurid press that money can be used to bring about THAW's discharge after a little time has elapsed and interest in the case begins to flag is simply preposterous, for there is no possible way in which this can be done if, as we assume, the superintendent of the Matteawan State Hospital is an honest man who cannot be induced to certify that THAW has recovered his sanity if he entertains a contrary opinion in fact.

We suppose there can hardly be any doubt that independently of this special statutory provision in the insanity law to which we have referred a writ of habeas corpus might be sued out in behalf of THAW upon application to any of the numerous Judges in the State who are authorized to grant the writ, and that it would be enough simply to allege in the petition that the patient was sane and as a matter of fact that therefore his further detention was not warranted in law. Upon the return of such a writ the sole issue would be the question of the petitioner's sanity, and that would doubtless be tried as such issues almost always are, chiefly with the aid of medical expert testimony and opinion evidence.

Some alarmists and pessimists have suggested that such a habeas corpus proceeding might be instituted in a distant part of the State, in some rural county where the inquiry would be brought out upon short notice and conducted in comparative obscurity, so that the petitioner would be out and perhaps on his way to Europe before the public had become aware that the writ had been issued. We think these fears are groundless. We should be sorry for the reputation of the Judge who sanctioned any such course of action. Under the positive command of the law it is the duty of every Supreme Court Justice in the State to grant a writ of habeas corpus whenever the petition presented to him contains the prescribed statutory allegations. His refusal to do so subjects him to a heavy pecuniary fine. The duty to grant the writ, however, does not render it obligatory to make the writ returnable before himself. He can require the custodian of the imprisoned person to show cause for his detention before such court as may most properly and conveniently inquire into the facts and circumstances. In the Thaw case there can be no possible doubt that the appropriate place for the return of any writ of habeas corpus which may be granted is the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court in New York county, or if that court be not in session then the writ should be returnable before Justice DOWLING, whose experience upon the trial must make him more competent to pass upon the question of the defendant's sanity than any other magistrate possibly could be. If our advice in this respect is heeded there will be no possibility of any scandal in the Thaw case.

The Tenth of "Revolution."

Our own JIMMIE GARFIELD is reported as having addressed the Hamilton Club of Chicago on Lincoln Day, in the course of which speech he said that the "Republican party stands face to face with the proposition of bringing to account men of wealth who broke the laws." He also said that the policy of the Administration toward corporation evildoers had averted a serious situation in this country—a condition of revolt that might in time have resulted in a revolution.

The Secretary plays a sweet little game of tennis. So does Mr. A. W. COOLEY, Assistant Attorney-General, whose face has not yet lost its boyish blush. But if he knows of any "men of wealth" who

have been sent to the State's prison or the Government penitentiary for breaking the laws he ought to indicate them. Of course we all know that there has been a loud hurrah over the haughty and red handed malefactors, anonymous, who have been grinding the faces of the poor. We have watched the campaign against them and have heard nothing but vague and general execration before which the good and the wicked have gone down in the universal crash. The Hon. E. A. HITCHCOCK, Mr. GARFIELD's immediate predecessor, was rounding them up and had a number of illdoers headed for the jail, but he retired from public life about the same time, and the doors thereof no longer yawn for individuals. The fact is that if the Administration has its hands upon any wealthy malefactors the country hasn't heard of it yet.

Perhaps Secretary GARFIELD was referring to men who ought to be imprisoned and will be some time, in the distant by and by, when the President gets ready and Mr. GARFIELD and "Judge" COOLEY—who really plays tennis with unusual neatness and despatch—have a day or two off to attend to them. Attorney-General BONAPARTE has already told us that there are difficulties in the way of catching the real offenders and finds it better to prosecute the corporations, fining the stockholders and indirectly the general public. We fancy, however, that our JIMMIE has something up his sleeve. He knows, if Mr. BONAPARTE doesn't, those bad men are, and he intends some day to check that impending revolution by putting them in prison.

Mr. BONAPARTE, however, shares the predicament of the Hamilton Club and of others too numerous to mention. He isn't prosecuting men however dyed in sin. He is fining corporations when he can find a Judge to do it for him. Meanwhile the club and the rest of us are waiting.

## Looking Backward.

Colonel BRYAN, as shrewd a politician, with one exception, as the country now boasts, cleverly keeps the discussion of his candidacy fastened on the recent history of his party. He encourages no one to look to the future. He makes the dead past for topics of conversation, for subjects of addresses, for texts of letters. If he was beaten at one time, somebody else was more beaten at another. If he failed to carry this State, another man was unsuccessful in that State. On such subjects he waxes eloquent and rhetorical.

An amusing if not convincing series of debates Colonel BRYAN maintains, with the result, highly desirable from his point of view, of stirring up a cloud of dust that obscures completely the future. If this goes on the election of 1908 will cease to be a matter of interest for even the most optimistic of Democrats, and the important question of what might have been four, eight and twelve years ago, had other things been entirely different, will absorb all Democratic energy and that which remains of intelligence in the Democratic party.

Secretary TAYLOR told the Retail Lumber Dealers Association at Detroit that the panic is due to "the exhaustion of all the free capital of the world in enterprises which have not been so profitable as it was expected they would be." Secretary GARFIELD didn't say that in Chicago or anything like it, but then the discrepancy is unimportant.

Chairman NATHAN JONES of the Board of Education committee that has just recommended the reestablishment of corporal punishment excuses the move by saying that "there is an unusual lack of respect for authority among school children at present." He calls attention to a certain "spirit of insubordination" which he considers a characteristic of the day.

This is alarmingly true. It is true in some of the most important spheres of life as well as in the microcosm of the schools. Sometimes you are tempted to deplore the circumstance that the field for the rod is so limited.

The Hon. ROBERT LUCE, a man of influence in the Republican party in Massachusetts, and particularly noted for his independence, resents the attempt of the Federal Administration to make Mr. TAYLOR the Republican candidate for President. "I respect President ROOSEVELT," says Mr. LUCE, "but I deny his right to name his successor. I regret the efforts of certain members of my party to establish a political hierarchy." This feeling is widespread among the rank and file of the party, and it is growing every day.

## A Tragedy of the Nautilus.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I take the following from the current number of the Outlook:

I thank your correspondent for calling my attention to the inexcusable slip I made in my December article on "The Reasonable but Unreasonable Animals," about the nautilus. I thoughtlessly took it for granted that the old legend about the nautilus and its sail was true, but of course it is not. It is no better natural history than the legend of the mermaid or of the siren. Such pretty fables rarely have any truth back of them. The phylla or Portuguese man-of-war has a kind of sail on its air sack that helps it to windward.

WEST PARK, N. Y. JOHN BURROUGHS.

Shades of Theodoris Magnus! Can it be possible that our old friend Oon John is capable of nature faking? ASTORBROOK, N. Y. February 15.

The Case of the Archbishop Hatto of Boston. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: To Mr. James Rushton of Boston, who is in trouble over the destruction of his socks by mice, I would suggest the ancient but effective remedy of putting salt on their tails. JEFFREY FOXBURN.

NEW YORK, February 15.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I would suggest that Mr. Rushton of Boston get a cat.

SCIENTIAMANT, N. Y. February 14. H. O.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Mr. Rushton of Boston should tell his Highness of Washington about the predatory mice. No doubt a special message to the Congress would follow.

NEWARK, N. J., February 15.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: To me the reason to be drawn from Mr. Rushton's sad case is that to catch your mouse you must use stockings held for sale.

NEW YORK, February 15. E. R. W.

Call From Two Continents to Mr. Seumas O'Sheel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: More power to Seumas O'Sheel! I'd like to shake his hand. God grant us an increasing multitude of the like of him. Ireland needs him and America too.

THOMAS E. McDONAGH.

MORRIS PARK, L. I., February 14.

Knicker—The President stole Bryan's clothes. Bocker—And is now trying to hang onto Lincoln's coat tails.

## THE ENGLISHMAN'S DISCOVERIES.

A Martha of the South.

Matthew Arnold disliked the names of some American towns, especially those ending in "ville" (he instanced Briggsville), and thought the inhabitants must be wanting in culture or sensibility because they did not change them. The people of Atlanta should have been mentioned approvingly by him. Their town used to be called Marthasville, and they changed it—in 1847. They thought Marthasville sounded too much like a crossroads, and the place was growing fast, so they coined a new name, never heard before, with an echo of the ocean in it. "Atlanta" is comely, no doubt, though it is artificial and has the drawback of suggesting a still smaller name, which is real, so to speak. But after all, is it not rather a pity that Marthasville was done away with? It may be a quaint word, but it has an agreeable, picturesque homeliness about it which somehow suggests a Dutch portrait, and when a city has become great and famous what is more graceful than something lingering about it reminiscent of its obscure youth? Besides, did not "Marthasville" exactly express the "Atlanta spirit" which one hears so much about and which is otherwise so evident? I have been assured fifty times—not just in these words, but the meaning has been the same—that the city is the Martha of the South. Indeed as things now are the old name would have proved a happy coincidence. Matthew Arnold was seldom right in what he said about America.

Looking back at New Orleans from Marthasville, if I may say that for a moment, I am reminded of a Yorkshireman who never returned home from a visit to the British capital without exclaiming as the train drew out, "Good-by, London, I'm going back to England!" For New Orleans seems more Latin than ever, and Marthasville more highly American, when the pair are taken together in one's mind. But that is using "American" in the English sense. Matthew Arnold again was truly of his country when he refused to regard the Americans as anything but transplanted Britons. I believe he never visited Louisiana or some other parts which would have told him emphatically that it takes all sorts of people and places to make up the United States. New York city, for that matter, might have corrected his opinion, but Georgia I suspect would only have confirmed it. In what other part were there first settlers more exclusively British or have their descendants continued to enjoy the land with less intrusion from outside?

On the northeasterly journey from the Gulf we crossed half of Alabama by daylight, but unluckily the train remained most of the time in a cutting of white mist. We had a few glimpses of swamps and wild looking trunks and woods, but more of a sensation of a road skirting a river, track negroes dangling their legs from low boards between high wheels drawn by mules were sure to appear on the scene, and little packing case houses, unpainted, but dark—sunburned perhaps—in haphazard groups. Of countless cotton plantations only the edges were visible—a few rows of small withered shrubs, which it must be pleasant for children than for adults to look on. When a fruiterer's barrel rolled giddily down a crowded slope it was as a rule of containing a package from Chattanooga. A good many breweries and distilleries had their whole business suddenly stopped on January 1. They are returning a soft answer and already manufacture temperance beverages. A man with seventy kegs of beer left on his hands tried watering it down under the prohibited percentage of alcohol, and the wine he sold as soft drink. But he was arrested. Most of the saloons are now fitted with soda fountains, or else with "moving picture" shows. No wonder that adaptability is a well developed quality in the United States.

The stories of "Uncle Remus" conquered every nursery and schoolroom in Great Britain twenty-five years ago and still reign. Before coming to Atlanta I used to imagine their author living on a wild, remote, primitive kind of plantation. My imagination had all the vigor of youth when it assigned this residence to him, and it was not without a shock that I found him having a street number within city limits and heard he had been there all the time. Luckily for Atlanta he is not remote. He is almost in a terrace and "Snap Bean Farm" is almost a misnomer. It has the house with a dark wooden roof pulled far down over wide verandas, and there are awnings and joggable boards and other good means of diversion on it; but you might suppose it was intended for the entertainment of youth as much as for agriculture. Its master said he had the children in as often as they would come. I asked if he told them stories. "Why, no," he said, "I couldn't tell a story to save my life! A robust, middle height, beefy man with a broad brow, a soft black hat hiding his face; homely in the best sense; a kindly mouth, and of course when the brim shadow was penetrated a gleam of Br'er Rabbit in the eyes. He said he often received letters from English children, and added, "I never thought the tales would be so popular," as if he was still surprised.

For its popular Atlanta really ranks pretty high in the literary business as well as in insurance. It comes before San Francisco, Buffalo, Pittsburgh and other larger cities as a "publication centre." And besides having an author of worldwide renown it probably has the most prolific poet in the world. It is no way to praise the bard of "Just From Georgia," however, to say that he has printed half a column or so of verse every day for the last twenty years. Before he said "Just to come from him, and so it may be. But 'E. L. S.' has a sounder claims. Let Georgians continue to call him their Burns. He is a true, natural singer, whose fancy, humor and pathos can only be "of the soil." Even when his songs are empty and aimless, they recall the aimlessness of things in nature—flickering shadows or floating thistledown. And sometimes he is a master.

## "Pull Your Own Weight."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: President Roosevelt said the other day, as he has many times before, "that every man should pull his own weight." Was that intended as a hint to Tish? NEW YORK, February 15. E. R. D.

## A Permissible Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: What has become of our Street Cleaning Department? Is it still in existence or has it been abolished? BEDFORD PARK, February 15. F. M.

## A President's Valedictory.

After Kipling. I have taken your bread and salt, I have drunk your water and wine, And ye had they have made me glad, And the praise that ye spoke was mine.

Was there aught that I did not change From peace to mad turmoil, One joy or woe that your customs knew That has stood 'gainst my grinding toil? I have written the tale of your lives For a foreign people's mirth, Ye are liars, knaves, but your souls I'd saved Had ye known what your souls were worth.

HENRY STANLEY HARRIS.

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## THE HANKS-ROOSEVELT MATCH.

Authoritative Statement From One of the Seemingly Southern to Me Called "Colonel" and "Captain," as Strangers are Accosted with "Jack" in the Northwest or plain "Fellow" in some other part. And Atlanta voices are as soft as I expected Southern voices to be. I know they sing pleasantly, for one cannot stay long in Atlanta without going to church. Much as it surprised me to hear it, this severe Sunday observance is said to be Southern. I doubt whether its strictness could be matched nowadays except in Scotland. What is legendary in England and New England is living fact here. All secular business is suspended by law under heavy penalties, and dinner parties, even driving for pleasure, are unusual. In smaller towns and out in the country such violations are said to be uncommon. Atlanta may have Southern characteristics, however—touches of Mary about Martha—without being typical. What is typically Southern I have to discover.

After New Orleans with its regular "sights" demanding visits in appropriate moods it was something of a relief to return to democratic sightseeing. The tourist in Atlanta need not make pilgrimages to the chief "sights"; they take care to present themselves to him with their sixteen stories and they impose no mental etiquette. A proper way of feeling toward an office building has not yet been devised. Of course there are some notable institutions—colleges, for instance, both "white" and "colored," the latter, it is said, having the better equipment; but architecturally—historical buildings are not—the Capitol is the only relic of the commercial past. It has a stately dome and marble halls, but the citizens are chiefly proud of it because it was built without "graft" and actually cost less than the original estimate.

Atlanta seems indeed to nurse or to have nursed some suspicion of politics. Does any other city contain a public monument to a favorite son with this inscribed among its virtues: "He never held or sought public office"? The treasure of the city, however, is the museum it commands of the country. My windows look out over leagues of gentle hills and valleys, often brown with woods, to a distant horizon on which hover like blue bubbles the Great Smoky Mountains. One side of the main street, by the way, drains into the Gulf of Mexico, the other into the Atlantic. It is like walking on a map.

I expected to hear a great deal about penology, but the Atlantians have little to say on the subject, though the new law has only been in force a month. A traveller from the North complained that he had been unable to sleep a wink for three nights for want of his usual medicine. I have not come across any one else who discussed the matter seriously. The calmness with which the Americans accept sleeping changes is always surprising to foreigners. This change of scene, particularly the offering to me a Sunday spent in Atlanta modified my expectation of a careless, romantic swashbuckling South.

From such a Sabbath to prohibition is not so very long a step, and the taking of it appears almost natural where a large part of the population has virtually to be kept in tutelage. However, there are rebels, and the nearest "open" town is said to be building itself up on "bug" business. Yesterday when a fruiterer's barrel rolled giddily down a crowded slope it was as a rule of containing a package from Chattanooga. A good many breweries and distilleries had their whole business suddenly stopped on January 1. They are returning a soft answer and already manufacture temperance beverages. A man with seventy kegs of beer left on his hands tried watering it down under the prohibited percentage of alcohol, and the wine he sold as soft drink. But he was arrested. Most of the saloons are now fitted with soda fountains, or else with "moving picture" shows. No wonder that adaptability is a well developed quality in the United States.

The stories of "Uncle Remus" conquered every nursery and schoolroom in Great Britain twenty-five years ago and still reign. Before coming to Atlanta I used to imagine their author living on a wild, remote, primitive kind of plantation. My imagination had all the vigor of youth when it assigned this residence to him, and it was not without a shock that I found him having a street number within city limits and heard he had been there all the time. Luckily for Atlanta he is not remote. He is almost in a terrace and "Snap Bean Farm" is almost a misnomer. It has the house with a dark wooden roof pulled far down over wide verandas, and there are awnings and joggable boards and other good means of diversion on it; but you might suppose it was intended for the entertainment of youth as much as for agriculture. Its master said he had the children in as often as they would come. I asked if he told them stories. "Why, no," he said, "I couldn't tell a story to save my life! A robust, middle height, beefy man with a broad brow, a soft black hat hiding his face; homely in the best sense; a kindly mouth, and of course when the brim shadow was penetrated a gleam of Br'er Rabbit in the eyes. He said he often received letters from English children, and added, "I never thought the tales would be so popular," as if he was still surprised.

For its popular Atlanta really ranks pretty high in the literary business as well as in insurance. It comes before San Francisco, Buffalo, Pittsburgh and other larger cities as a "publication centre." And besides having an author of worldwide renown it probably has the most prolific poet in the world. It is no way to praise the bard of "Just From Georgia," however, to say that he has printed half a column or so of verse every day for the last twenty years. Before he said "Just to come from him, and so it may be. But 'E. L. S.' has a sounder claims. Let Georgians continue to call him their Burns. He is a true, natural singer, whose fancy, humor and pathos can only be "of the soil." Even when his songs are empty and aimless, they recall the aimlessness of things in nature—flickering shadows or floating thistledown. And sometimes he is a master.

What a tremendous shadow is projected to the imagination in that travelling forward of the furrows of sand under the wing of the feet pendulum which is the pendulum of the clock! The pendulum of the clock is a thing of the imagination, it is proved mathematically, ought to effect exactly the difference observed.

Or, as Dr. Forbes explained a few days ago in the Columbia University chapel, "although the pendulum seemed to be changing the direction of its swing, it was not, it was caused by the fact that the chapel floor and the earth were gradually turning under it."

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